

REMARKS

Interview Summary

The applicant held a telephone interview with the examiner on 9/10/04 to discuss the rejections in the final office action. The applicant explained how the prior art does not disclose to implement security facilities, such as authentication, in a disk drive. In contrast, the prior art teaches to implement security facilities at the operating system level of a host computer. The examiner agreed the prior art does not teach this limitation, but sustained the rejection asserting that the preamble of the claim (which merely recites a disk drive) does not sufficiently distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, the applicant agreed to file a Request for Continued Examination together with claim amendments that better distinguish over the prior art by clarifying in the body of the claims how the security facilities are implemented within a control system of a disk drive for interfacing with a host computer rather than within the host computer.

Claim Rejections

The examiner rejected claims 1, 10-15, 17, 26-31 under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Blakley, III et al. (5,677,952). The examiner rejected claims 9 and 25 under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Blakley in view of Nozawa et al (5,235,641).

The applicant has amended the claims to clarify that the security facilities, such as authentication, are implemented by a control system within a disk drive, the control system for interfacing with a host computer to facilitate read and write commands to write data to and read data from a disk. The rejection should be withdrawn since the prior art teaches to implement the security facilities within a host computer rather than within a control system of a disk drive for interfacing with the host computer.

CONCLUSION

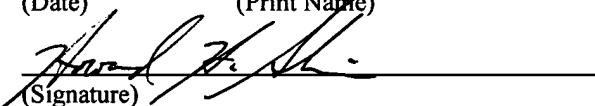
The above amendments to the claims do not add new matter or raise new issues; the applicant respectfully requests the amendments be entered. In view of the foregoing remarks, the rejections should be withdrawn. In particular, the relied upon prior art does not disclose or suggest to implement within a control system of a disk drive an authentication facility, a secret drive key, and a decryption facility using the secrete drive key. The examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned over the telephone in order to resolve any remaining issues that may prevent the immediate allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

9/13/04 Howard H. Sheerin
(Date) (Print Name)

(Signature)